

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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R 021440Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7862

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0598

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BC, RH, US

SUBJECT: BOTSWANA VIEWS ON RHODESIAN DEVELOPMENTS AND U.S.

POSITION THEREON

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

REF: A) GABORONE 524, B) GABORONE 393

1. DURING A SHORT EXCHANGE OF FIVEWS WITH SZCRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CHARLES TIBONE MARCH 30, CHARGE' RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE RECENT LUSAKA CONFERENCE. TBONE NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOT ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE, IN SEVERAL BRIEF CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT HE HAS GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT THE PRESIDENT'F REMARKS AT HIS MARCH 25 PRESS CONFERENCE (REF A) PRETTY MUCH REFLECT HIS VIEWS AND CONCERNS.

2. HE SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD MADE THE FOLLOIWNNG ADDITIONAL REMARKS TO HIM: THERE HAD BEEN NO DISCERNIBLE PROGRESS TOWARD UNIFYING THE ANC LEADERSHIP DURING THE CONFERENCE EVEN THOUGH
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THE LEADERS HAD BEEN BROUGHT TOGETHER UNDER THE AUSPICES

OF THE FOUR PRESIDENTS. PRESIDENT KHAMA'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE CUBANS WAS AS EXPRESSED AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE THAT IS, THAT THE RHODESIANS SHOULD LIBERATE THEIR COUNTRY THEMSELVES. THIS MEANS THAT FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST THE PRESIDENTS WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY INVITATION TO THE CUBANS. TIBONE SAID HE THOUGH THIS INCLUDED MACHEL AS WELL.

3. CHARGE' HAD BROUGHT WIRELESS FILE TRANSCRIPTS OF EXCERPTS OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S STATEMENT BEFORE THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE MARCH 29. TIBONE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE MATERIAL AND SAID THAT THE SEVERAL RECENT STATEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT FORD HAVE BEEN VERY HELPFUL.

4. FIRST, THEY HAVE CLARIFIED THE U.S. POSITION ON MAJORITY RULE. TIBONE SAID THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THE U.S. POLICY BUT, AS HE HAD SAID IN AN EARLIER CONVERSATION (REF B), SOME OF THE FORMULATIONS HAD LENT THEMSELVES TO MISINTERPRETATION, POSSIBLY DELIBERATELY, BY SOME LEADERS, INCLUDING WHITE RHODESIANS, TO INDICATE U.S. SUPPORT FOR SMITH. HE SAID THE RECENT STATEMENTS HAVE MADE IT UNMISTAKABLY CLEAR THAT SUCH IS NOT THE CASE. HE NOTED THAT HIS OWN PRESIDENT HAS HAD THE SAME PROBLEM WITH RHODESIA. HE RECALLED THAT THE BULAWAYO CHRONICLE HAD RECENTLY TAKEN THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS ON SELF-RELIANCE BY THE ANC OUT OF CONTEXT AND PLAYED THEM WITH THE HEADLINE, "KHAMA SAYS NO CUBANS."

5. SECONDLY, AS SOMEONE WHO HAS SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES, HE IS ENCOURAGED THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL AND SECRETARIAL STATEMENTS HIGHLIGHTING SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS WILL PUT THESE ISSUES BEFORE THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND HOPEFULLY DEVELOP SUPPORT FOR THE CONSTRUCTIVE AMERICAN POLICIES TOWARD THAT REGION. THIRD, THE STATEMENTS ENCOURAGE MODERATE AFRICAN LEADERS BY SHOWING AMERICAN CONCERN FOR THE REGION, WHICH HE HAS TO ADMIT APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN LACKING IN THE PAST. THIS CONCERN STRENGTHENS THE HAND OF THOSE LEADERS WHO SEEK PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS TO REGIONAL PROBLEMS. IN THIS REGARD HE SAID HE IS PLEASED AT THE UPCOMING SECRETARIAL VISIT TO AFRICA, INCLUDING ZAMBIA.

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